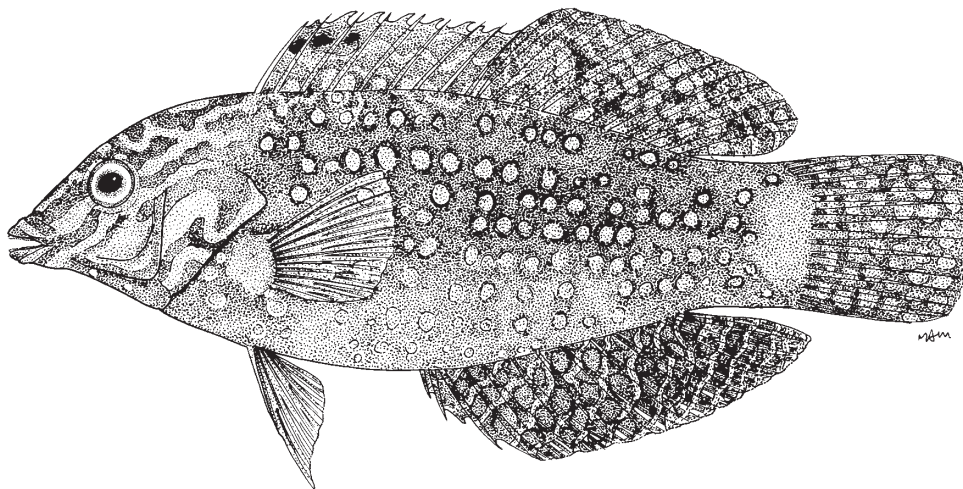


Xenojulis margaritaceus (Macleay, 1884)

Frequent synonyms / misidentifications: *Halichoeres macleayi* Jordan and Seale, 1906 / None.

FAO names: En - Finspot wrasse.

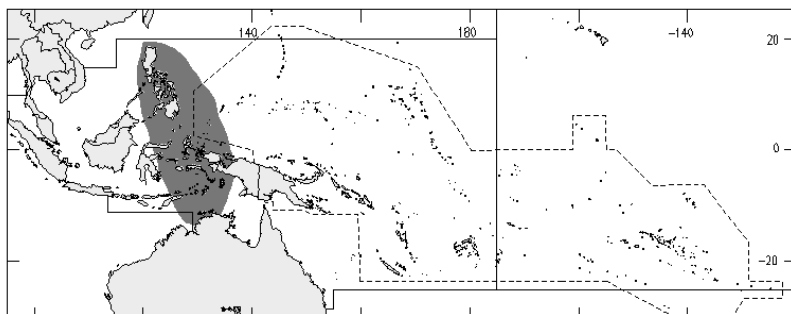


Diagnostic characters: Body moderately deep, its depth 2.6 to 2.9 times in standard length, and compressed, its width posterior to head 2.6 to 3 times in its depth. Mouth terminal, horizontal, small; lips not very fleshy; **upper jaw with a series of close-set, projecting, compressed teeth which are progressively longer anteriorly, the more posterior teeth rounded; a large canine at rear of upper jaw** which projects diagonally forward and downward from corner of mouth; lower jaw with 8 or 9 teeth on each side, similar to the uppers, and fitting closely into the gaps of the uppers; 2 or 3 small, blunt teeth in a medial second row anteriorly in jaws. Branchiostegal rays 6. Gill rakers short, 19 or 20 on first gill arch. Dorsal fin with IX spines and 11 soft rays; anal fin with III spines and 11 soft rays; pectoral fins with 13 rays, **pelvic fins long, extending past anus**; caudal fin slightly rounded, principal caudal-fin rays 14, the median 12 branched. Lateral line complete, angling downward to straight peduncular portion beneath last 3 or 4 dorsal-fin rays, the pored scales 26 to caudal-fin base. **Head naked except for 3 rows of scales on each side of nape; no median predorsal scales**, fins naked except for small scales on base of caudal fin and 1 midventral scale at base of pelvic fins. **Colour:** initial phase colour unknown; **terminal phase body burgundy red, becoming paler on thorax; 5 to 7 irregular rows of bright yellow to greenish spots thinly bordered with black along flanks from head to base of caudal fin**; head irregularly striped with green and burgundy, with a yellow area on upper part of operculum, **iris of eye yellow; dorsal fin with 3 black spots between spines 1 to 4**; remainder of fin, as well as anal and caudal fins, burgundy with irregular rows of narrowly dark-bordered green spots and blotches; pectoral fins clear, green basally.

Size: Maximum total length about 10 cm.

Habitat, biology, and fisheries: A rare species, this fish has been recorded from shallow waters in dense coral cover and weedy areas. Very little is known of its biology, and it is not commercially exploited.

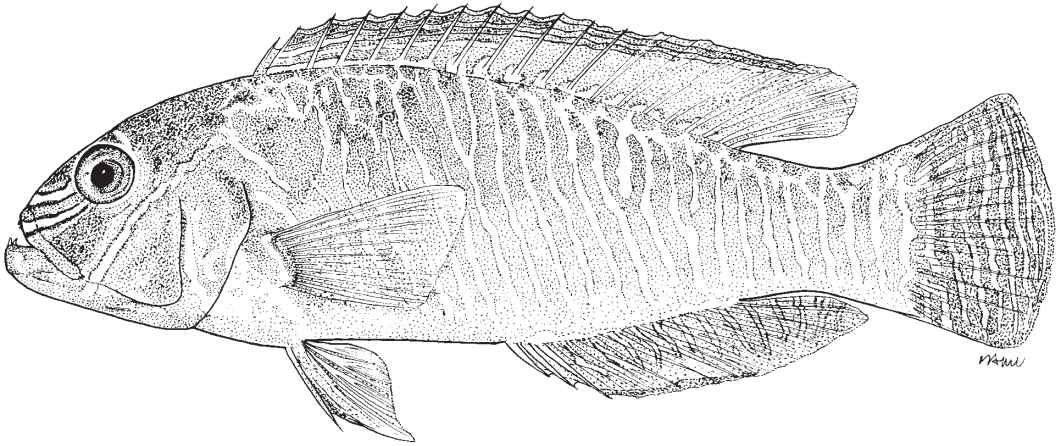
Distribution: Papua New Guinea, Philippines, and Western Australia.



Xiphocheilus typus (Bleeker, 1856)

Frequent synonyms / misidentifications: None / None.

FAO names: En - Bluebanded wrasse.

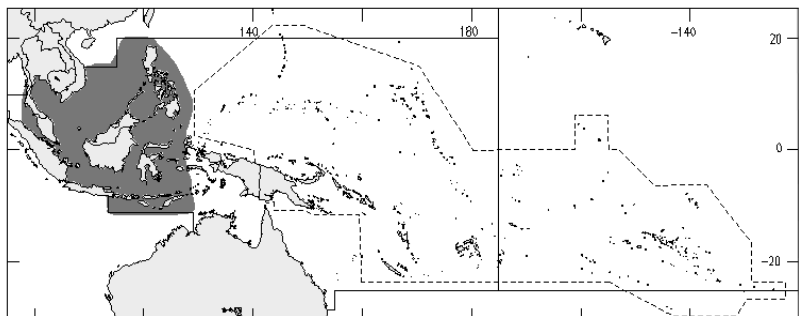


Diagnostic characters: Body slender, its depth 3.5 to 3.7 times in standard length, caudal peduncle very slender. Dorsal profile of head convex, head and snout blunt; jaws prominent, upper jaw with 2 widely separated prominent anterior canines; **1 or 2 large, curved canines present on each side of rear of upper jaw**; lower jaw also with 2 large anterior canines. **Dorsal fin continuous, with XII spines and 8 soft rays**; anal fin with III spines and 10 soft rays; pectoral fins with ii unbranched and 13 to 15 branched rays; pelvic fins short, reaching anus only in large specimens; caudal fin slightly rounded to double emarginate in adults. **Lateral line smoothly curved, uninterrupted, with 29 pored scales.** Scales not reaching onto bases of dorsal and anal fins; **7 to 10 large predorsal scales, extending in front of dorsal fin to centre of eye**; cheek and opercle scaly; lower jaw naked. **Colour:** initial phase olivaceous above, becoming orange or pink below; **a broad blackish band present dorsally on side below about sixth dorsal-fin spine**; sides with numerous narrow evenly spaced oblique blue bands angling posteroventrally; **head olivaceous with 4 or 5 narrow blue bands or stripes outlined with yellow-orange**, first 2 directed anteroventrally from eye, third anteroventrally from origin of lateral line across cheek to corner of mouth, and remaining 1 or 2 located vertically adjacent to posterior edge of preopercle; dorsal fin blue with 2 or 3 narrow orange or pink stripes; anal fin yellow-orange with numerous narrow blue bands basally; caudal fin yellow-orange with about 5 to 8 narrow blue bands; caudal fin suffused with black centrally; pectoral fins transparent to orangish with a blue band edged with black posteriorly along basal margin on fleshy base of fin; pelvic fins yellowish orange with blue leading edge. **Colour not known for terminal phase adults and juveniles.**

Size: Maximum total length about 12 cm.

Habitat, biology, and fisheries: Inhabits coral reefs at depths of 35 to 85 m. The ecology of this species is largely unknown. It is not commonly marketed for food, nor seen in the aquarium trade.

Distribution: This monotypic genus appears to be confined in distribution to the tropical western Pacific, extending into the Indian Ocean only in an area to the west of the Malay Peninsula.

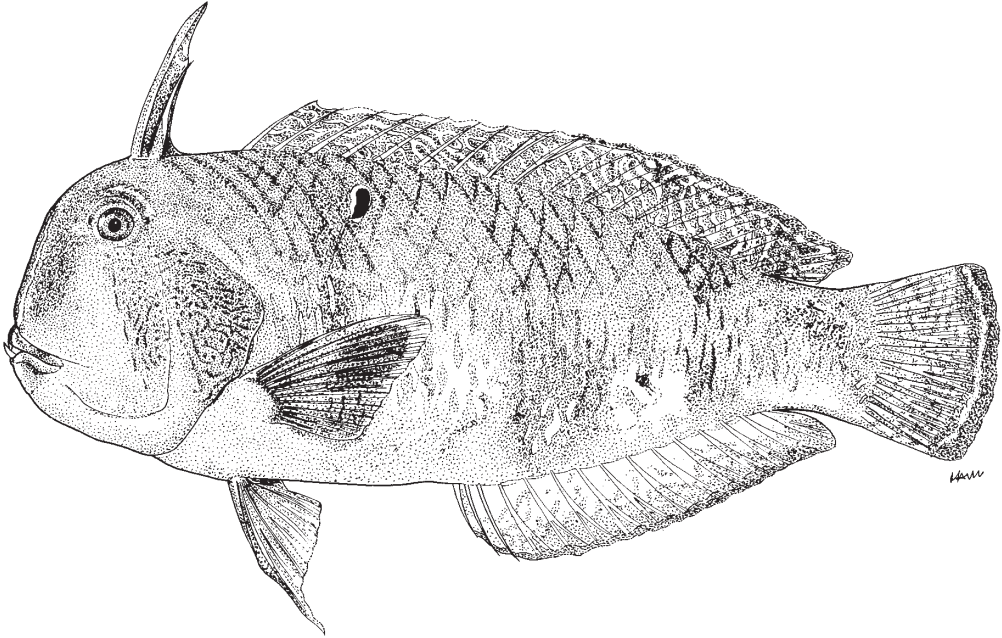


Xyrichtys pavo (Valenciennes, 1840)

(Plate V, 40)

Frequent synonyms / misidentifications: *Hemipteronotus pavo* (Valenciennes, 1840); *Xyrichtys pavo* (Valenciennes, 1840) (misspelling) / None.

FAO names: En - Pavo razorfish; Fr - Rason paon; Sp - Cuchilia pavo real.

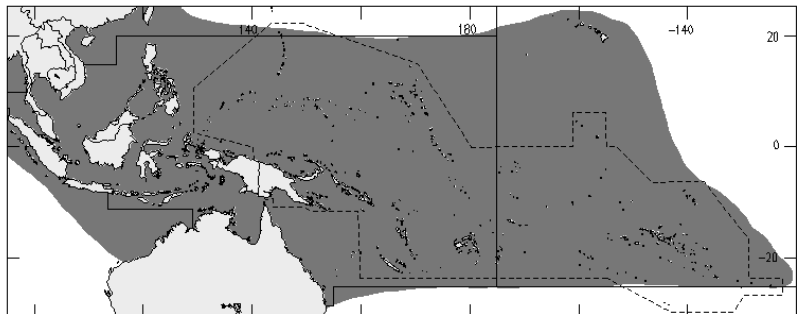


Diagnostic characters: Body deep, its depth 2.4 to 2.7 times in standard length. **Dorsal side of head compressed into a knife-like edge, the profile with an extreme convex curve above lower edge of eyes; snout very steep, almost vertical in adults**, snout tip forming an obtuse angle; jaws prominent, 2 large canines anteriorly in each jaw; no enlarged tooth at rear of upper jaw. Dorsal fin in 2 parts, with a total of IX spines and 12 (rarely 13) soft rays, **first 2 spines more flexible than remaining spines, originating over eye, connected to each other by a membrane, but separated by a large gap from rest of fin**; anal fin with III spines and 12 (rarely 13) soft rays; pectoral fins with ii unbranched and 10 branched rays; pelvic fins slightly filamentous in adults; caudal fin rounded. Lateral line interrupted below posterior portion of dorsal fin with 20 to 22 pored scales in anterior portion and 4 or 5 in peduncular portion. Scales not reaching onto bases of dorsal and anal fins; no scales in front of dorsal fin, nor on cheek, opercle, and lower jaw. **Colour:** grey dorsally, yellow-white ventrally, with **3 or 4 poorly defined broad, dark vertical bars on sides; a prominent blue-edged black spot immediately above lateral line below sixth dorsal-fin spine**; dorsal fin variegated in blue, with 2 poorly defined large spots on rear half; anal fin pale. Juveniles with dark bars more evident than adults and may have 2 ocellated black spots in soft portion of dorsal fin; very small individuals may be mostly dark brown.

Size: Maximum total length about 35 cm.

Habitat, biology, and fisheries: Found in areas with sandy bottoms, at depths of 7 to at least 30 m. Individuals are encountered hovering just above the bottom, and dive head-first into the sand with the approach of danger. Feeds mostly on hard-shelled prey, including molluscs and crustaceans. This species is not often commercially exploited.

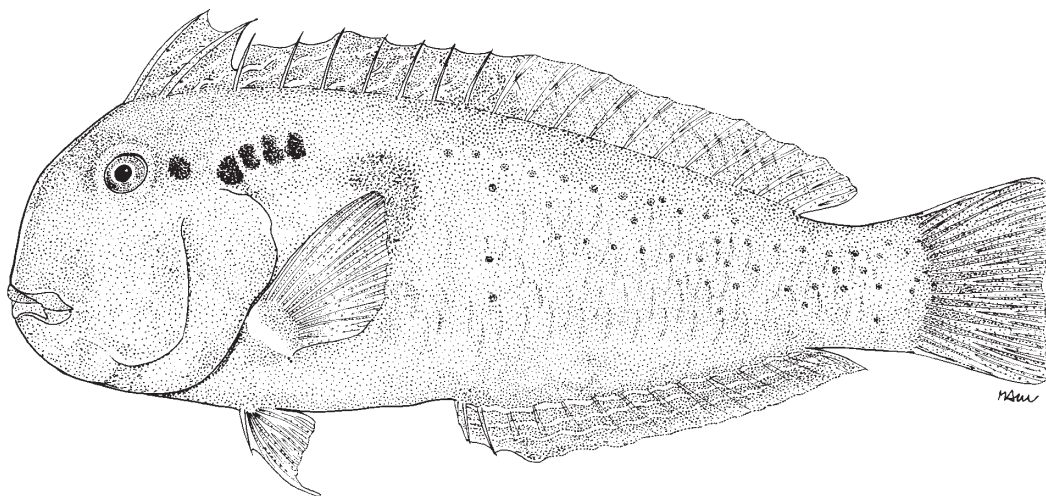
Distribution: Broadly distributed in the Indo-Pacific.



Xyrichtys pentadactylus (Linnaeus, 1758)

Frequent synonyms / misidentifications: *Hemipteronotus pentadactylus* (Linnaeus, 1758); *Xyrichtys pentadactylus* (Linnaeus, 1758) (misspelling) / None.

FAO names: En - Fivefinger razorfish; Fr - Rason ocello; Sp - Cuchilla ocelada.



Diagnostic characters: Body deep, its depth 2.8 to 3 times in standard length. Dorsal surface of head compressed into a knife-like edge, the profile with an extreme convex curve above lower eyes; snout very steep, almost vertical in adults, the tip forming an obtuse angle; jaws prominent, 2 large canines situated anteriorly in each jaw; no enlarged tooth at rear of upper jaw. Dorsal fin continuous, with a total of IX spines and 12 soft rays, **first 2 dorsal-fin spines slightly longer, closer together, and more flexible than remaining ones and connected to each other and to rest of fin by a membrane; first dorsal-fin spine inserted above eye; a deep notch in membrane between second and third dorsal-fin spines**; anal fin with III spines and 12 (rarely 13) soft rays; pectoral fins with ii unbranched and 10 branched rays; pelvic fins filamentous in large individuals; caudal fin rounded. Lateral line interrupted below posterior portion of dorsal fin with 20 pored scales in anterior portion and 4 or 5 in peduncular portion. Scales not reaching onto bases of dorsal and anal fins; no scales on front of dorsal fin, scales in a vertical row on upper portion of opercle and in several rows on cheek below eye, reaching downward to behind corner of mouth; lower jaw without scales. **Colour:** initial phase light grey with a blackish spot on side between tip of pectoral fins and lateral line; **most scales of body with an orange-red dot**; upper abdomen with a pale pink area crossed by diagonal red lines; **terminal phase with a less distinct blackish spot on upper side**; no red dots and no pink area on abdomen; **a series of dark red spots (usually 5 or 6) nearly as large as eye in a row from behind eye along anterior lateral line**; numerous flecks of red farther back on sides in head in very large individuals; fins bluish to transparent with several reddish to orange oblique stripes or spots on dorsal, anal, and caudal fins.

Size: Maximum total length about 25 cm.

Habitat, biology, and fisheries: Found in areas with sandy bottoms in shallow waters. Individuals are encountered hovering just above the bottom and dive head first into the sand with the approach of danger. Feeds mostly on hard-shelled prey, including molluscs and crustaceans. This species is not often commercially exploited, although it is taken occasionally by bottom trawls and with spears by divers.

Distribution: Western Pacific to western Indian Ocean.

